

Message Text

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43 42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 SS-15 SP-02 CU-02 /053 W

----- 027756

R 051254Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3493

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2623

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: FRAGMENTS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE

REF: IR 6830 0112 75

1. AMERICAN SOURCE CONFIRMS THAT ONE STUDENT KILLED BY TERRITORIAL ARMY SOLDIER IN SHAMBU, WELLEGA (REPORTED REFTTEL) AND THAT EIGHT TO NINE STUDENTS WOUNDED.

2. TOW FSL EMPLOYEES REPORT FIVE AND SIX STUDENTS, RESPECTIVELY, KILLED IN WELLEGA PROVINCE DURING FIRST WEEKEND OF MARCH IN DISPUTE BETWEEN BALABATS AND CAMPAIGNERS. SOURCES REPORT SEEING ONE AND THREE BODIES, RESPECTIVELY, IN MENELIK II MORGUE. EMBASSY HAS UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM AMERICAN SOURCE THAT TEN CAMPAIGNERS IN HERNA, HARRARGHE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR OPPOSING CAMPAIGN.

4. EMBASSY HAS TWO REPORTS OF CONFLICT IN FITCHE, NORTHERN SHOA IN WHICH ALLEGEDLY FIVE OR THIRTEEN CAMPAIGNERS WERE
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SHOT BY TERRITORIAL ARMY.

5. AMERICAN SOURCE REPORTS FRICTION BETWEEN TIGRE AND AMHARA CAMPAIGNERS NEAR MAKELLE RESULTED IN 29 TIGRE STUDENTS EXPROPRIATING TRUCK FOR TRIP TO MAKELLE. TRUCK OVERTURNED KILLING ONE AND INJURING MANY OTHERS. STUDENTS INVOLVED NOW IMPRISONED IN MAKELLE. AS RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT, MAKELLE SCHOOLS NOW CLOSED BECAUSE OF STUDENT STRIKE. SEPARATE AMERICAN SOURCE STATIONED IN MAKELLE REPORTED THAT MANY CAMPAIGNERS IN AREA DESERTING CAMPAIGN FOR CITY.

6. AMERICAN SOURCE REPORTS ONE TIGRE CAMPAIGNER KILLED NEAR ADIGRAT, TIGRE BY TERRITORIAL ARMY AS RESULT OF AMHARA-TIGRE FRICTION.

7. CAPTAIN KIROS ALEMAYEHU, ZAMETCHA DIRECTOR, TOLD FSL POL EMPLOYEE THAT TOTAL OF THREE ZAMETCHA STUDENTS KILLED IN COUNTRY-SIDE DURING FIRST WEEKEND OF MARCH. OTHER CAMPAIGN ADMINISTRATOR, HOWEVER, TOLD SAME EMPLOYEE THAT A TOTAL OF NINE ZAMETCHOCH DIED DURING THAT WEEKEND.

8. SEVERAL AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN SOURCES REPORT THAT LARGE LAND-OWNERS IN VARIOUS PART OF THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING PARTS OF SHOA, SIDAMO, GEMU GOFA, WELLEGA, HARRARGHE, AND ARUSSI, HAVE NOT PLANTED CROPS BECAUSE OF THE AWAITED LAND REFORM DECREE. LARGE FARMERS ESPECIALLY, I.E. THOSE WHO PRODUCE SURPLUSES FOR CITY, HAVE NOT PLANTED CROPS. ADDITIONALLY SINCE MOST COTTON PLANTED ON CONTRACT BASIS AND VERY FEW MERCHANTS WILLING TO TIE UP MONEY IN COTTON FUTURES BECAUSE OF LIKELIHOOD OF NATIONALIZATION, LITTLE COTTON BEING PLANTED. OTHER REPORTS BEING RECEIVED INDICATE SOME SOLDIERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS LEAVING ADDIS FOR COUNTRYSIDE TO SAFEGUARD RURAL LAND HOLDINGS FROM TENANT TAKEOVERS.

9. SEVERAL EMBASSY SOURCES, INCLUDING ONE CLOSE TO "DIRG" MEMBER, REPORT PMAC ESTIMATES CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM LAND REFORM RELATED VIOLENCE, INCLUDING ATTACKS AGAINST ZAMETCHOCH, COULD BE AS HIGH AS 60,00-100,00. STRONG LAND REFORM PROPONENTS ON PMAC BELIEVE EVEN SUCH A HIGH PRICE IS JUSTIFIED TO DESTROY FEUDALISM.

10. FSL LOCAL HAS BEEN ON-SCENE OBSERVER ON THREE OCCASIONS DURING LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY WHEN GROUPS OF ERITREANS RANGING FROM THREE

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TO EIGHT WERE ARRESTED IN ADDIS ABABA BARS.

11. TOW ADDIS ABABA SECONDARY SCHOOLS, TEFERI MAKONNEN AND HSI (NOW TESFA KOKEB) CLOSED BY STUDENTS' STRIKES OVER PROHIBITION OF STUDENT COUNCIL.

12. ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED THAT MAJOR ABEBE GEBRE MARIAN AND LT. COL. HAILU RESASSA, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL COURT MARTIAL,

HAVE FLED WITH ETH\$80,000 PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF ETHIOPIAN TIKDEM
BUTTONS. VARIOUS INDEPENDENT SOURCES REPORT THAT BOTH OFFICERS,
WHO ARE GALLA STAFF MEMBERS ON "DIRG," HAVE TAKEN MONEY AND
LARGE STORE OF WEAPONS FROM HOLLETA MILITARY ACADEMY AND JOINED
GENERAL TADESSE BIRU'S DISSIDENT GROUP NEAR GINCHE IN NORTHERN
SHOA.

COMMENT: IDEA THAT 100,000 CASUALTIES MAY BE ACCEPTABLE PRICE
FOR LAND REFORM IGNORES LEVEL AND SCOPE OF VIOLENCE THIS IMPLIES
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SURVIVAL OF "DIRG."
WYMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: CAUTION: THIS MESSAGE APPEARS TO CONTAIN
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

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